(b) No, Sir. The exchange is locally working satisfactorily. However, 30 Channel Radio Media is faulty and is expected to be rectified shortly.

(c) It is planned to replace the existing media with Optical Fiber Cable by March, 2003.

**Shortage of Manpower in Department of Posts**

900. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of staff in the Department of Posts throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in each State, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any selection or recruitment programme was made for this department on National or State level; and

(d) if so, when the last recruitment was made for the same in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SAN JAY PASWAN): (a) There is no general shortage of staff though there are vacancies in circles arising from time to time due to promotion, resignation, retirement, death etc. of the incumbents.

(b) The details are given in the Statement *{See* below).

(c)The selection/recruitment is made at the National/Circle/Divisional level, depending upon the Group to which selection/recruitment is made.

(d) Filling of the vacancies by direct recruitment and by promotion is an on-going exercise. Promotional vacancies are filled up as and when these vacancies arise. According to the existing instructions, direct recruitment vacancies can be filled up to the extent of 1/3rd of the direct recruitment of vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. Action is in progress to fill up the direct recruitment vacancies relating to the years 2000 and 2001 in all Circles/States.The Annual Direct Recruitment Plan for the year 2002 is under preparation.

**Statement**

*Vacancies in Department of Posts*

| Name of the Branch | Vacancies (Gazetted posts) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Group A* | Group B* |
| Postal Wing | 47 | 50 13 |
| Postal Civil Wing | 14 | |

Group 'A' and Group 'B' (Gazetted) are all India Cadres and do not have State-wise Vacancies.

| Name of the State/Union Territory | Vacancies (Non-Gazetted posts) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Group B (Non-Gazetted) | Group C | Group D |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 17 | 1335 | 219 |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 51 | 13 |
| Assam | 29 | 287 | 105 |
| Bihar | 27 | 1179 | 349 |
| Chhattisgarh | 11 | 405 | 130 |
| Dadra Nagar Haveli | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Daman | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Delhi | 41 | 917 | 276 |
| Diu | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Goa | 0 | 54 | 9 |
| Gujarat | 67 | 1532 | 352 |
| Haryana | 8 | 398 | 85 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Himachal Pradesh | 9 | 200 | 46 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 0 | 167 | 100 |
| Jharkhand | 4 | 351 | 46 |
| Karnataka | 33 | 1347 | 309 |
| Kerala | 18 | 1327 | 247 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 53 | 14 |
| Maharashtra | 155 | 3088 | 987 |
| Manipur | 3 | 14 | 3 |
| Meghalaya | 1 | 190 | 31 |
| Mizoram | 0 | 16 | 19 |
| Nagaland | 0 | 31 | 5 |
| Orissa | 0 | 825 | 149 |
| Punjab | 15 | 958 | 161 |
| Rajasthan | 38 | 682 | 220 |
| Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 25 | /816 | 337 |
| Tripura | 5 | 72 | 16 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 77 | 2446 | 789 |
| Uttranchal | 8 | 277 | 62 |
| West Bengal | 9 | 1641 | 417 |
| Secretariat (Delhi) | 2 | 51 | 19 |

**Opening of New Post Office in Ghaziabad**

901. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no Post Office exists in Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh to cater the needs of thousands of people living in that area;